

For Immediate Release

The Indiana Department of Correction's "Kids Can't Wait" Campaign Results in Generous Donation to Foster Children

Indianapolis, Indiana (September 23, 2008)—Markers, crayons, notepads, and bright-colored backpacks lined the tables at the Adam's Mark Hotel today as the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) presented over \$30,000 in school supplies, backpacks, bicycles, and monetary donations raised by IDOC staff and offenders through the 2008 "Kids Can't Wait" campaign to foster children being served by The Villages.

The partnership between the IDOC and The Villages, Indiana's largest not-for-profit family services agency, began in 2005. Since then, the IDOC has donated a total of 850 backpacks, 25,000 school supplies, 350 bicycles, and over \$55,000 in cash to The Villages.



Commissioner Buss presents the donation check to Sharon Pierce, President of The Villages.

At today's presentation, IDOC Commissioner Edwin G. Buss applauded The Villages and their effort to assist children in need. "The "Kids Can't Wait" Campaign reminds us that we must be diligent and move with urgency to meet the needs of Indiana's youth. Providing resources such as school supplies and bicycles is only a small step in assisting youth, but it is a valuable and critical step to ensure these youth succeed," commented Commissioner Buss.

IDOC facilities across the state participated in the “Kids Can’t Wait” campaign, with both staff and offenders chipping in with donations. Moreover, work release offenders were on hand to present the backpacks and supplies to the children.



Pendleton Correctional Facility Superintendent Brett Mize and Plainfield Correctional Facility Superintendent Wendy Knight assist children in getting their school supplies.

PEN Products also helped coordinate the collection, organization, and distribution of the school supplies and backpacks, with many bicycles that had been restored by the Shifting Gears program at the Pendleton Correctional Facility and the Indiana State Prison being given to foster children assisted by The Villages.

All in all, the collaboration between the Indiana Department of Correction and The Villages serves to help strengthen Hoosier families and assist in breaking the cycle of incarceration.



Superintendent Brett Mize looks on as one of the children tries out a bicycle.

About the Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at:

<http://www.in.gov/idoc>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found at:

<http://www.reentry.in.gov>.

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